

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 3, 6, 13, 15, 16, and 18 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hansen (US 6,078,650). This ground for rejection is respectfully traversed. In particular, McNutt does not disclose or suggest, "a DTMF tone decoder which converts the DTMF tones to text matching respective individual keys on a telephone keypad," or "a processor that stores the received audio messages and the text corresponding to the DTMF tones into the storage device," as set forth in claim 1; claim 13 includes a similar recitation. For this limitation, the Office Action cites Fig. 13 and column 17, lines 32-43. The cited passage from column 17 is reproduced below.

FIG. 12 illustrates a system level diagram 1200, which is very similar to the system level diagram 1000 in FIG. 10 and the system level diagram 800 in FIG. 8, the major difference being the use of predetermined phrases (e.g., instructions sets, progress information, prerecorded information, announcements) sent from a standard telephone via text server 1220 to external TDD device 1205. These changes are necessary to implement the process shown in FIG. 13. FIG. 13 is flow diagram that illustrates a preferred process used to convert DTMF to text in order to establish real time communication via a text server from either the desktop or TDD device and a display telephone.

The operation of the invention is further described at column 11, lines 20-49 which teaches away from converting the DTMF tones to text matching respective individual keys on a telephone keypad.

Note alternate systems require that DTMF be used to navigate the system, whereas preferred embodiments enable the caller to use the TDD keyboard, which is a much better approach for the deaf since they do not have to use the telephone dial pad. *The telephone dial pad is awkward for the name dialing since only eight (8) numerals have associated letters and two letters, "q" and "z", are not represented. As a result, if one dials the name "Hansen" on a dial pad, the input to the voice mail system is 426736, which could also be "GAO???" or "Gan???" or "Gam???" etc. These alternate systems have to use numbers to find names.* The preferred embodiment's enabling of the caller to use the TDD keyboard and the translation to ASCII name dialing is more efficient and easier to use. Furthermore, the command set for the TDD server can be more comprehensive, since letters and numbers are used rather than DTMF numbers. For example, the command for "Transfer" (which would be a number in a DTMF driven system) could be "transfer," "trans," "call," or "connect" et al. In short, the commands can be appropriate to the expected callers reference. Another advantage of input in text format is that the menu commands are structured such that none of the commands entered by the caller will conflict. The advantage to this strategy is that the caller can move from menu to menu and be

prompted with choices in small groups or they can input the appropriate command as soon as they are connected and, thus, speed access to the service that they select without navigating from menu to menu. *Finally, DTMF relies on audio feedback to assure the user that a signal is sent. TDD is visual and therefore better oriented to deaf users' needs.* (Emphasis added)

As can be seen from the cited passage, Hansen teaches that it is preferred to use a keyboard for a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) to enter message data.

(1) Hansen does disclose entering programmed text messages using a telephone keypad but does not disclose or suggest "a DTMF tone decoder which converts the DTMF tones to text matching respective individual keys on a telephone keypad" as required by claims 1 and 13. Indeed, as described above, Hansen teaches away from this feature of the claim. Instead, Hansen discloses a menu system where a user may navigate among a number of possible response messages using the telephone keypad to find an appropriate response message to send back to the deaf caller using the TDD device.

In addition, there is no indication that an audio message is stored with the text data in a storage device, as required by claims 1 and 13. Indeed, this would be counterintuitive as the device disclosed by Hansen is intended for use by a deaf individual. The mailbox feature referenced at column 6, lines 41-54 is described as storing only audio messages. This description relates to the known Meridian Mail™ system upon which Hansen's system is based. Although Hansen describes improvements to this system he does not disclose or suggest storing text corresponding to the DTMF tones with voice messages in a storage device, as required by claims 1 and 13. Because Hansen does not disclose a key feature of claims 1 and 13, claims 1 and 13 can not be subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Hansen. Furthermore, because Hansen teaches away from converting "DTMF tones to text matching respective individual keys on a telephone keypad," claims 1 and 13 cannot be subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Hansen.

Claims 3 and 6 depend from claim 1 and claims 15, 16 and 18 depend from claim 13. Accordingly, these claims are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Hansen for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 13.

Claims 2 and 14 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being patentable over Hansen (US 6,078,650) and in view of McNutt et al. (US 4,805,207). This ground for rejection is respectfully traversed. Hansen is described above. The McNutt et al. patent concerns a message taking and retrieval system that receives DTMF tones for two purposes. The first purpose is to identify a user, (see col. 7, lines 50-66). The user is prompted for an ID number to determine whether the user is a permitted caller. There is no indication that the ID number entered by the user is stored, either by itself or with an audio message in a storage device, as required by claims 2 and 14. The second purpose is for menu selection (see col. 8, lines 5-19). This clearly does not meet the limitations of claims 2 and 14 as they depend from claims 1 and 13, described above. Consequently, McNutt et al. do not provide the material that is missing from Hansen. Because Hansen teaches away from converting "the DTMF tones to text matching respective keys on a telephone keypad," Hansen can not be used in combination with any other reference render obvious an invention that includes this feature. Accordingly, claims 2 and 14 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Hansen and McNutt et al.

Claims 4, 5 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Hansen, McNutt et al. and Tverskoy et al. This ground for rejection is respectfully traversed. Hansen and McNutt et al. are described above. Tverskoy et al. concerns a telephone answering machine that is configured to send stored voice mail messages to a user as sound files attached to e-mail messages. Tverskoy et al. do not disclose or suggest "a DTMF tone decoder which converts the DTMF tones to text matching respective individual keys on a telephone keypad," or "a processor that stores the received audio messages and the text corresponding to the DTMF tones into the storage device," as required by claims 1 and 13, from which claims 4, 5, and 17 depend. Accordingly, Tverskoy et al. do not provide the material that is missing from Hansen and McNutt et al. Consequently, claims 4, 5 and 17 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Hansen, McNutt et al. and Tverskoy et al.

Claims 7 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Hansen and Schindler et al. This ground for rejection is respectfully traversed. Hansen is described above. Schindler concerns an entertainment system with the capability of displaying enhanced video information. Schindler et al. do not disclose or suggest a telephone or the use of DTMF tones. Accordingly, Schindler et al. can not provide the material that is missing from

Hansen, as described above with respect to the rejection of claims 1 and 13. In particular, neither Hansen, Schindler et al. nor their combination disclose or suggest "a processor which stores the received audio messages and the text corresponding to the DTMF tones into the storage device, replays the stored messages using the audio processing circuitry and displays the text using the video processing circuitry," as required by claim 7. As described above, Hansen does not disclose or suggest storing audio messages with text messages. Such a system would be counterintuitive for Hansen as his invention is directed to a device for use by deaf individuals. Accordingly, claim 7 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Hansen and Schindler et al. Claim 12 depends from claim 7 and is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Hansen and Schindler et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 7.

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Hansen, Schindler et al. and McNutt et al. This ground for rejection is respectfully traversed. As described above, none of these references, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests, "a processor that stores the received audio messages and the text corresponding to the DTMF tones into the storage device," as required by claim 7 from which claims 8 and 9 depend. Accordingly, claims 8 and 9 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Hansen, Schindler et al. and McNutt et al.

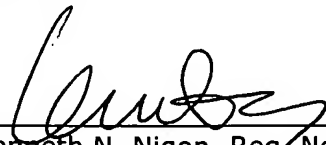
Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Hansen, Schindler et al., McNutt et al. and Tverskoy et al. This ground for rejection is respectfully traversed. As described above, none of these references, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests, "a processor that stores the received audio messages and the text corresponding to the DTMF tones into the storage device," as required by claim 7 from which claims 10 and 11 depend. Accordingly, claims 10 and 11 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Hansen, Schindler et al., McNutt et al. and Tverskoy et al.

Appln. No.: 10/021,426
Amendment Dated June 13, 2003
Reply to Office Action of March 17, 2003

MATP-607US

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-18.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth N. Nigon, Reg. No. 31,549
Attorney(s) for Applicant(s)

KNN/tmb

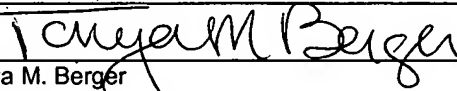
Dated: November 26, 2003

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980
(610) 407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

November 26, 2003



Tonya M. Berger

TMB_I:\MATP\607US\AMENDDRAFT.DOC